

Lionheart Classical Academy Board of Trustees

Regular Meeting on May 11, 2023

Draft Minutes

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees (the "Board") of Lionheart Classical Academy Chartered Public School ("LCA") took place on May 11, 2023 at 10 Sharon Road, Peterborough, New Hampshire. The meeting was called to order at 6:04 p.m. by Chairman Barry Tanner. Board members present were: Vice Chair Kim Lavalley, Leo Plante, Andrew Alajajian, Bailey Sweet, Kevin McDonald, and Richard Merkt (being a quorum of the Board), Chairman Barry Tanner (via Zoom) and Kerry Bedard (ex officio and Executive Director). Chairman Tanner noted that this was a public meeting and that notice of the same had been duly posted in accordance with state law.

The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance led by Chairman Tanner.

Chairman Tanner read the School Mission of LCA.

Executive Director Kerry Bedard presented a "Mission Moment," focusing on how LCA is "training minds and inspiring hearts," including through daily gatherings of faculty and staff, email messages, and special spring events (today including a concert).

Chairman Tanner opened the meeting for Public Comments. No public comments were offered, whereupon he closed the Public Comment portion of the meeting.

Richard Merkt presented his Secretary's Report, consisting of Minutes of the Board's regular public meeting on April 13, 2023 and special public meeting on April 27, 2023. On motion by Mr. Plante, seconded by Mr. Alajajian, the Minutes of the meetings were approved by a vote of 7-0-0. Review of minutes from non-public portions of meetings was deferred until a future meeting of the Board.

On invitation of Treasurer Lavalley, Caitlyn Blundell, CPA, (via Zoom) discussed LCA's April 2023 Financial Report. LCA currently has an operating surplus of about \$2.2 million, thanks in significant part to a restricted stock gift. Most

budget line items are on or close to target, with the exception of both liability insurance and utility costs, which are running above budget expectations. LCA still has approximately \$551,000 available under its state charter school grant for eligible expenditures. A recently completed audit disclosed no exceptions in its findings. LCA's cash balance is sufficient to cover its anticipated operating expenses through the next state per pupil payment, expected in early fall. The Board accepted the Financial Report on motion of Mr. Merkt, seconded by Mr. Plante, on a vote of 7-0-0.

The Meeting then moved to consideration of the Fiscal Year 2024 draft operating budget. Ms. Blundell summarized the proposed budget, discussing both the cash and accrual basis results. She noted that FY 2024 budget projections rely upon existing state aid levels, not the increased figures currently under consideration by the New Hampshire General Court and Governor. She commented that, should the increased state aid levels be enacted, LCA's financial position will be strengthened and current FY budget line items can be revised based upon the new information. Mrs. Sweet made a motion, seconded by Mr. Plante, to approve LCA's draft FY 2024 budget, which motion was passed by the Board by a vote of 7-0-0.

Executive Director Bedard presented her monthly report to the Board. She recognized Mercy DeMasi for her valuable work on state assessment and student test scores for LCA students. Mrs. Bedard asked LCA Founders and Board members to mark their calendars to be present at the school for the morning of June 16, which will be the final day of LCA's inaugural school year. Special events recognizing the occasion are planned. She also noted that having two classroom teachers in each grade in the next academic year will provide an enhanced faculty network, enabling each grade's teachers to be mutually-supporting.

With respect to enrollment, Executive Director Bedard reported that LCA will finish the 2023 academic year with 183 students and currently estimates adding another 101 students, for a fall term complement of about 284 students. State Board of Education approval of an increased enrollment cap will be requested. All new students will be evaluated via placement testing to assist their entry into and successful placement at LCA.

The Board then turned to consideration of items requiring Board approval. First was a revised LCA policy on promotion and retention of students. The Board determined that the revised policy provides greater flexibility in addressing student needs, and, on motion by Mr. Merkt, seconded by Mrs. Sweet, the Board approved the revised policy by a vote of 7-0-0.

Next, the Board considered a Letter entitled FY 24 Charter School Assurances mandated by the State as a commitment by LCA to conduct its operations in compliance with State charter school requirements. After discussion, Mrs. Sweet made a motion, seconded by Mr. McDonald, authorizing LCA approval and acceptance of the Letter, which motion the Board passed by a vote of 7-0-0.

Under New Business, Vice Chair Lavallee updated the Board on the status of pending legislation to increase state aid to charter schools. A result is anticipated sometime prior to July 1, 2023. The Vice Chair remarked on the value of parent input and support for legislation proposing the increase.

The Board also discussed a letter received from a party expressing interest in serving on LCA's Board in the future. The Board is pleased by this expression of interest, and Chairman Tanner, assisted by Vice Chair Lavallee, will review the matter at the end of the current school year.

It was noted that LCA's landlord has been working on common area and landscaping maintenance services at LCA, which the Board was happy to see.

June 8 was fixed as the next regular meeting date of the Board, as well as the Annual Meeting. LCA will solicit parent interest for potential Board service by September 15, 2023.

Mr. McDonald expressed concern, in light of incidents of violence at schools throughout the country, that LCA's Safety Committee should convene immediately to evaluate LCA's safety preparedness, as well as identify areas needing prompt remedial attention. Other Board Members were supportive of his concern. Executive Director Bedard committed that she will contact Mr. McDonald on Monday to discuss scheduling a meeting of the Safety Committee to address the issues raised by the Board. Mr. Merkt suggested adding security updates as a recurring agenda item for future Board meetings.

Vice Chair Lavallee, seconded by Mr. Merkt, moved that the regular meeting enter a non-public session under RSA 91-A:3, II(d) to discuss legal contracts. Executive Director Bedard was requested to remain for the non-public session. On a roll call vote, Mr. Tanner voted yes; Mrs. Lavallee voted yes; Mr. Plante voted yes; Mr. Alajajian voted yes; Mrs. Sweet voted yes; Mr. McDonald voted yes; and Mr. Merkt voted yes. The motion was approved by a vote of 7-0-0, whereupon the meeting entered into non-public session at 7:53 p.m.

Upon conclusion of the non-public session at 8:56 p.m., Mrs. Sweet, seconded by Mr. Merkt, moved that the Board come out of closed session and that the minutes of the non-public session be sealed. A roll-call vote was conducted. Mr. Tanner voted yes; Mrs. Lavallee voted yes; Mr. Plante voted yes; Mr. Alajajian voted yes; Mrs. Sweet voted yes; Mr. McDonald voted yes; and Mr. Merkt voted yes. The motion was approved by the Board by a vote of 7-0-0. The decision of the Board in the non-public session was to authorize Chairman Tanner to negotiate, in compliance with all relevant state public bidding statutes and regulations, engagement of a construction contractor for LCA's Phase II construction project to commence no later than June 1, 2023.

Mr. Plante moved that the Regular meeting adjourn, Mr. Alajajian seconded the motion, and the Board approved by a vote of 7-0-0, whereupon Chairman Tanner declared the Regular meeting adjourned at 8:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Merkt, Secretary